

Message Text

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16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 010648Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 9652

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

COMUSTDC TAIPEI TAIWAN

S E C R E T TAIPEI 5354

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, TH, JA, CB, LA, VS

SUBJECT: ROC ISSUES UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL
OF 374TH TAW

REF: A. STATE 174564

B. TAIPEI 5185

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE SET FORTH DEPT VIEWS AS GIVEN REF A DURING
CONVERSATION WITH PREMIER MORNING SEPT 1. THOUGH CCK
DID NOT RENEW REQUEST FOR RETENTION ONE C-130 SQUADRON,
HE WAS UNBENDING IN VIEW THAT PROPOSED SEPT 4 ANNOUNCE-
MENT WOULD GIVE HIM GREAT DIFFICULTY AND COUNTER-PROPOSED
ANNOUNCEMENT BY ROC. TWO HOURS LATER, WHILE EMBASSY WAS
ABOUT TO TRANSMIT TELEGRAM REPORTING CONVERSATION,
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ISSUED UNILATERAL STATEMENT.

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CCK'S HASTY ACTION TO PREEMPT US INDICATES DEPTH OF HIS
OWN FEELING AND MAGNITUDE OF WHAT HE SEES AS HIS PROBLEMS.
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS URGENT REMONSTRANCE TO CCK TO INFORM
HIM OF OUR SURPRISE AND EMBARRASSMENT AND OUR DECISION

TO PROCEED WITH OUR ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT. END SUMMARY

2. CHARGE WAS ABLE TO SEE PREMIER ALMOST IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REF A. AS DEPT HAD HOPED, WHEN TOLD DECISION WAS FIRM, CCK DID NOT RENEW REQUEST FOR RETENTION ONE C-130 SQUADRON ON TAIWAN. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNBENDING IN VIEW THAT OUR PROPOSED SEPT 4 ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD GIVE HIM TROUBLES WITHIN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT WHICH HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD HELP HIM TRY TO AVOID.

3. CCK DID NOT DISPUTE REFTEL ARGUMENTS NOR DID HE DENY USG HAD MADE EFFORTS TO MEET HIS INITIAL SUGGESTION. RATHER, HE EMPHASIZED THAT OUR PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE BELIEF ON TAIWAN THAT USG HAD MADE UNILATERAL DECISION WITHOUT CONSULTING GRC, AND HAD DONE SO IN RESPONSE TO SOME UNDERSTANDING WITH PEKING. HE SAID THAT WERE USG TO MAKE CONTEMPLATED SEPT 4 ANNOUNCEMENT, WE WOULD GAIN ONLY A MARGINAL ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS AND IN SO DOING WOULD CAUSE HIM BASIC AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. CCK REFERRED TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT AND ASKED WHY ANYTHING FURTHER NEED BE SAID. HE ASKED THAT CHARGE CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON. CHARGE ONCE AGAIN REVIEWED REASONS WE FAVORED ANNOUNCEMENT, ESPECIALLY ADVANTAGES TO BOTH US AND ROC OF ONE SIMPLE, GUIDED STATEMENT TO WHICH WE COULD REFER INEVITABLE QUESTIONS.

4. AT VERY END OF CONVERSATION, CCK PROPOSED NEW IDEA WHICH, SEEMINGLY HAD JUST COME TO MIND: SIMPLE, UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY GRC. CCK ASKED THAT CHARGE TRANSMIT THIS NEW IDEA TO WASHINGTON ASAP; HE WOULD MEANWHILE DISCUSS WITH HIS MILITARY STAFF. APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS LATER, WHEN EMBASSY WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN TRANSMISSION OF REPORTING TELEGRAM, FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ISSUED BY MILITARY SPOKESMAN OF MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE: QUOTE WITH REGARD TO THE USAF TRANSPORT UNITS AT CCK AIRBASE IN SUPPORT OF THE WAR IN INDOCHINA, SINCE THE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE A
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PORTION OF THOSE UNITS HAVE STARTED TO WITHDRAW. THE REST WILL ALSO WITHDRAW IN THE FUTURE, ACCORDING TO PLAN.
UNQUOTE.

5. COMMENT: CCK'S DECISION TO PREEMPT US IS AN EXTRAORDINARY ABERRATION IN THE WAY HE HAS HANDLED ALL SUCH MATTERS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. PRESUMABLY HE DECIDED TO RISK OUR INEVITABLY UNFAVORABLE REACTION BECAUSE THE ISSUE IS OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HIM IN HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE. IN FACT, WHEN WE GOT WORD OF THE ROC ANNOUNCEMENT WE WERE IN PROCESS OF RECOMMENDING THAT WE GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO HIS SUGGESTION SINCE WE THINK CCK DOES FACE A TRICKY SITUATION WITH MANY KEY ELEMENTS OF THIS

SOCIETY AS IT IS FORCED TO MAKE PAINFUL ADJUSTMENTS IN RELATIONS WITH US.

6. CCK'S IDEA OF AN ROC ANNOUNCEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE EXAMPLE OF US-THAI CONSULTATIONS INVOLVING BOTH INFORMAL GOT STATEMENTS AND FORMAL USG/GOT ANNOUNCEMENT. IN ANY CASE, HIS PRIME MOTIVE IN TAKING THE INITIATIVE WAS PROBABLY HOPE THAT IT WOULD BLUNT THE EDGE OF FEELINGS ON TAIWAN THAT THE ROC IS ESSENTIALLY A HELPLESS PAWN IN THE PROCESS OF STRATEGIC ADJUSTMENTS GOING ON IN EAST ASIA.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW WE SHOULD HANDLE REMONSTRANCE TO CCK. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS CHARGE BE INSTRUCTED TO CALL ON HIM URGENTLY AND TO STATE: A) USG SURPRISED AND EMBARRASSED BY ROC'S UNILATERAL ACTION SINCE ISSUE WAS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS; AND B) USG WILL PROCEED WITH ITS OWN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT WITHDRAWALS OF C-130'S FROM TAIWAN. WE WOULD PROPOSE DOING THIS WITH A TONE OF HURT RATHER THAN ANGER.

8. PLEASE SLUG REPLY NIACT IMMEDIATE.
GLEYSTEN

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